

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of applicant's certified copy of the priority document for the German Patent Application 102 45 712.3, filed October 1, 2002 supporting the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Claims 1-5 remain in the application. Claims 1-5 are subject to examination.

Under the heading "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-5 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,608,783 to Frankowsky et al. (hereinafter Frankowsky) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

A patentable difference between the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 of the instant application and Frankowsky is that Frankowsky does not teach write amplifiers by which write

data is to be driven to the bit lines. The sense amplifiers SA0 to SA1, the Examiner refers to in the Office Action, are used for reading out data from the memory array and correspond to the sense amplifiers as indicated by reference numeral 5 in the specification of the instant application. In other words, the sense amplifiers SA0 to SA1 are not functionally equivalent to write amplifiers recited in claims 1 and 4 of the instant application. As no write amplifiers are taught in Frankowsky, no interdependency between the write amplifiers and any address decoding circuit can be suggested or is disclosed.

Furthermore, the address logic in Frankowsky has the function to control the data inverters so that data coming from the I/O port is inverted or not depending on signals received from the address logic. Frankowsky does not disclose that the address logic is able, depending on a test mode signal, to simultaneously activate a group of write amplifiers so that the write amplifiers drive the applied test data to the corresponding bit lines as recited in claims 1 and 4 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 4. Claims 1 and

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4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art.

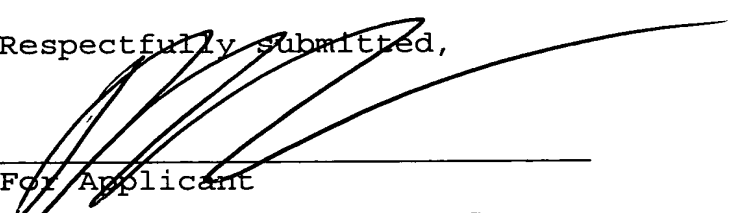
The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 4.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 are solicited.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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REL:cgm

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